

A TRUE
RELATION
OF THE MAN-
NER, OF THE
Execution
OF
THOMAS EARLE OF
STRAFFORD

With the severall passages and
circumstances, together with his
Speech to the people on the
Scaffold, the 12. of
May, 1641.

Printed for *J. A.* 1641.

A TRACT
RELATION
OF THE
LIFE OF THE
Execution
OF
THOMAS EARLE OF
STRAFFORD

With the severall passages and
circumstances, together with his
Speech to the people on the
 Scaffold, the 12. of
May, 1649.

THE MANNER

of the Execution of

Thomas Earle of Strafford,

with the severall passages, together

with his Speech on the Scaffold on

Wednesday the 12. of May. 1642.

First, there was a Scaffold provided in the usuall place on Tower-hill for the place of Execution of the said Earle, and also divers other Scaffolds for the Spectators to behold the same, whereunto did resort a great confluence of people, both men, women and children, with ioyfull hearts to see the end of his life that long since began their miseries, so that in a short time all the windows, house tops, trees, steeple, and scaffold, that surrounded the place, were so filled with people, that two of the scaffolds by being overburdened fell down, so that some that came to be but Spectators of the tragedy, proved Actors themselves, for divers were so hurt & maimed, that the Chirurgeon by his Iudgement cannot promise recovery, be-

While all Tower-hill was so crowded, that many were trodden under feet, to the great hazard of their lives; there was also two Trayne bands attending, with Constables and watchmen to prevent any mutany that should happen to arise.

Aboute seven of the clocke came the two Sheriffs of London, and presently after the Headsmen with the Blocke and Axe, aboute eleven of the clocke *Sr. William Belfore* Lievetenant of the Tower came to see all things in readinesse, and then returned backe to the Tower and the Sheriffs of London with him, who presently brought the prisoner up to his fatall place, being habited in a blacke mourning suite and long cloake, accompanied by the Lord Primate of *Ireland*, the Earle of *Cleveland*, and divers other Lords and Gentlemen, so soone as he ascended the scaffold, he went to the East side of the same, and began to make a Speech to the People, but by reason of the disorder and rudenesse of the multitude, hee was interrupted and forced to withdraw himselfe for a time, but after a while (by the perswasions of some of the graver sort) they were a little stilled, then hee presently returned againe and with a cheeresfull countenance, spake as followeth.

The



THE
 EARLE OF
 STRAFFORDS
 SPEECH
 On the SCAFFOLD.

MY Lord Primate of *Ireland*, (and my Lords,
 and the rest of these Gentlemen) it is a very
 great comfort to me, to have your Lordship
 by me this day, in regard I have bene known
 to you a long time, I should be very glad to obtaine
 so much silence, as to be heard a few wordes, but I
 doubt I shall not; My Lord, I come hither by the
 good will and pleasure of Almighty God, to
 pay that last debt I owe to sinne, which is death,

and!

and by the blessing of that God to rise againe through the merits of Christ Iesus to eternall glory; I wish I had beene private, that I might have beene heard, my Lord, if I might be so much bolding to you that I might use a few wordes, I should take it for a very great Concesse, my Lord I come hither to submit to that judgment which hath past against mee, I doe it with a very quiet and contented mind, I doe freely forgive all the world; I doe forgive that is not spoken from the teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart; I speake it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in me arising to any Creature, I thank God I may say truly, and my Conscience beares me witness, that in all my service since I have had the Honour to serve his Majesty in any Employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall prosperitie of King and People; if it have beene my hap to be miscontented, it is the common portion of us all while we are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter, here we are subject to errour, and apt to be misjudged one of another; there is one thing I desire to cleere my selfe off, and I am very confident I speake it with so much cleernesse, that I hope I shall have your Christian Charity in the beleife of it, I did alwayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome; many Nation lived under, and under God the moanes of making King and people happy; so that have I beene from being against Parliaments, for my death I have acquit all the world, and pray God he will forgive them; and in peticular, my Lord Primate I am ve-

is glad that his Majestie is pleased to conceive mee; not merriting so severe, and heavy a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence; I am very glad and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, and beseech God to turne it to him, that he may find mercy when hee hath most neede of it; I wish this Kingdome all the prosperitie and happinesse in the world: I did it living, and now dying it is my wish, I doe now professe it from my heart, and doe most humbly recommend it unto every man here, and with every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and consider seriously whither the beginning of the happinesse of a people should be writen in Letters of blood, I feare you are in a wrong way, & I desire Almighty God that no onedrop of my blood may rise up in judgment against you.

(My Lord,) I professe my self a true and obedient Son to the Church of England, to that Church wherin I was borne, and wherein I was bred; prosperitie and happinesse, be ever to it: and whereas it hath bin said that I have enclined to Popery, if it be an Objection worth answering, let me say truly, that from the time since I was one & twenty yeares of age, till this houre now going upon nine and forty, I never had thought in my heart, to doubt of the truth of my Religion in England and never any had the boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to the best of my remembrance; and so being reconciled to the mercies of Christ Iesus my Saviour, into whose bosome I hope shortly to be gathered to enjoy those eternall happinesse that shall never have end.

I desire heartily the forgiveness of every man: both for any rash or unadvised word, or deed, and these your prayers: And so my Lords farewell, farewell to all that are here.

And so my Lords farewell, farewell to all that are here.

well all the things of this world, LORD strengthen my faith, give me confidence and assurance, in the merits of *Christ Iesus*,

I desire you, that you would be silent and joyne in Prayers with me; and I trust in God we shall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the accomplishment of all happinesse, where every tear shall be wiped from our eyes, and every sad thought from our hearts: And so God blese this Kingdome, and *Iesus* have mercy upon my Soule.

THIS he spake with such a grace and deliberation, that he did even mollifie the most stony hearts there present, and many that before reioyced at the newes of his sentence, did now testifie their compassion by their teares; then he withdrew himselfe to the middle of the Scaffold, and so went to Prayers, and after hee had prayed aboute the space of halfe an houre, he rose up, and by the helpe of one of his servants put off his doublet, and turned downe the coller of his shirte, and stroaked up his haire to the crowne of his head himselfe, and one put a cap upon his head, which being done, he came to the side of the Scaffold againe, and desired all the people to pray for him, so making a low obeysance, retired himselfe againe; then taking first the Lord Primate of *Ireland* by the hand, and after the rest of the Lords and

and Gentlemen that were on the Scaffold one after another tooke his leave of them all, and so kneeling downe before the Blocke, and prayed againe about the space of a quarter of an houre, then layd downe his head to the Block, but bad the executioner not strike untill hee had fitted his head thereunto, the which he tryed to doe twice, then laying downe his head the third time, wished the Executioner not to strike untill he lifted up his hands, then hee seemed to make a short prayer and lifted up his hands, at which time the Executioner stroke off his head at one blow, which was caught in a scarfe by two men, the Heads-man letting fall the fatall Axe, caught up his head and shewd it to all the people, his eyes rouled up and downe, but his body stirred very little, but the bloody executioner is to be admird at for he laughed whilst he had the Head in his hand.

Sic transit gloria mundi.

FINIS.